

## **THE JACOBS REPORT**

**GILDA Z. JACOBS**  
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**Assistant Democratic Floor Leader**  
**FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **LEGISLATURE REPEALS SBT**

#### **Replacement: To Be Determined . . .**

The Legislature voted to abolish Michigan's Single Business Tax at the end of 2007, without providing a replacement for \$1.9 billion in lost revenue. Governor Jennifer Granholm cannot veto the repeal (as she did earlier this year) because this time it was brought to legislators through an initiative petition drive led by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema (R-Wyoming) compared the process to one that took place in the early 1990s to drastically reduce property taxes used for education under Proposal A.

Senate Democrats warned that a new business tax could upset sectors of the business community that may see higher taxes, and/or place new tax burdens on individuals.

The Senate voted 22-16 for passage, along party lines.

In the House, seven Democrats joined Republicans to vote for the repeal: Kathy Angerer of Dundee, Pam Byrnes of Dexter, Marie Donigan of Royal Oak, John Espinoza of Croswell, Gary McDowell of Rudyard, Joel Sheltrown of West Branch and Dudley Spade of Tipton. Seven lawmakers were absent and did not vote: Democrats Stephen Adamini of Marquette, Marsha Cheeks of Detroit, George Cushingberry of Detroit, LaMar Lemmons III of Detroit, Bill McConico of Detroit and Jim Plakas of Garden City; and Republican Barb Vander Veen of Allendale.

The final House tally was 64-36.

Following the vote, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services affirmed the state's AA rating, but issued a statement revising its outlook for Michigan general obligation bonds to negative.

"We believe that the administration and Legislature will diligently work to solve the gap in a structurally balanced manner, and past evidence supports this belief," said Standard & Poor's credit analyst James Wiemken. "However, the magnitude of the deficit, political uncertainty and ... initial collection possibilities associated with any replacement revenues cloud the likelihood of a true and timely structural solution."

### **INJURY PREVENTION FOR THE AGING**

#### **MDCH Programs Target Falling**

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), in collaboration with the Michigan Fall Prevention Partnership, is stressing physician intervention and fall prevention programs and clinics as effective means of reducing falls among older adults.

The Michigan Fall Prevention Partnership is a 30-member coalition, comprised of representatives from public health, health care, academia and the aging services network concerned about education and interventions to help adults over the age of 65 prevent falls.

Research conducted by the Injury and Violence Prevention Section of the Michigan Department of Community Health—funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—found that patients in an intervention group receiving fall prevention clinic services had 34 percent fewer falls than patients receiving usual care.

As many as 80 percent of emergency room visits for injuries in those over 65 are for falling, about half of which need hospitalization. Falling is the most common cause of hip fractures and a serious fall can cause decreased mobility, activity level, and a decline in body functions that could lead to an increased susceptibility to infections, further disability, and even death. In 2002, medical costs related to falls that happened in Michigan reached an estimated \$659 million.

Falls can be prevented in the home through maintaining a regular exercise regimen to retain balance and strength and by reducing possible falling hazards such as rugs and cords, poor lighting, and uneven steps. Older adults and their families can also be aware of health factors that can contribute to the likelihood of falling and injury, such as poor vision, side effects of medications, osteoporosis, and heart conditions. Falls that do occur, even if injury is not obvious, should be reported to a physician who can refer the patient to a rehab facility or local fall prevention services.

For more information about the Michigan Fall Prevention Partnership, the study, and brochures for older adults and health professionals, please visit [www.michigan.gov/injuryprevention](http://www.michigan.gov/injuryprevention).

## **WIT, WISDOM, ETC . . .**

### **Quotables**

“To be proud and inaccessible is to be timid and weak.”

-Jean Baptiste Massillon, quoted in the *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*

“Popularity? It’s glory’s small change.”

-Victor Hugo

### **Quote of the Week: Peter Ustinov**

“If the world should blow itself up, the last audible voice would be that of an expert saying it can’t be done.”

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All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

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